APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,331	03/01/2002	Susan M. F. Davis	10012623-1	3076

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EXAMINER
BASS, JON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3639	

DATE MAILED: 01/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 March 2002</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-20</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-20</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. An After Final Amendment was received on December 28, 2005.

   After further review of the arguments made by Attorney

   Setter the finality has been removed. Prosecution has been

   re-opened.

Status Of Claims

2. Claims 1-20 are pending in the current application. No

   claims have been amended.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments filed on December 28, 2005 have been

   considered. Claims 1-20 are currently pending. No claims

   have been amended.

4. Applicant argues that the prior art by US Patent 5,869,819

   (Knowles) fails to disclose " a system that applies postage

   and a network address to the postage filed on an object".

   The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicants

   characterization of the prior art's inventive concept.

   Knowles teaches in figure 12A element 57A that a URL (which

   is also considered to be a network address because it

   stores data about the item within and is also used for

tracking purposes), code is used in as the equivalent of a

network address. The URL code can be placed anywhere with

in the package and it can function as postage. Therefore,

it is inherent that the URL code can be placed in any

location on the object. The process in which Knowles

mentions deals directly with applying an URL code (network

address) to an object.

5. The Examiner introduced a referenced by David Block

(6,010,156) who discloses a mailing label system that

includes address information and postage that depends on

the weight of the item.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs

of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections

under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an
application for patent by another filed in the United
States before the invention thereof by the applicant for
patent, or on an international application by another who
has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and
(4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention
thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-3,5-16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carl Knowles et

al.(US Patent No. 5,869,819) hereinafter referenced as

Knowles.

As Per Claim 1:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, an

information delivery system, [delivery system, fig.10, element

53], comprising:

a postage system, [packaging routing, tracking and

delivering system; fig.10, element 53] configured to apply

postage, [information structure, fig.13B] and a network address,

[URL code filed, fig.12B] to objects in a postage field, [URL

code field; fig.12A, element 57A] on the objects wherein the

postage field comprises an area reserved on the objects for the

postage and wherein the objects are delivered to users,

[fig.13B; delivery field]; and

a server system, [fig.10, element 51; internet server]

configured to receive a first message over the Internet from one

of the users, wherein the first message is addressed to the

network address, process the first message to retrieve

information, and transfer the information in a second message

over the Internet to the one of the users, [fig.10, elements 52,

53; package routing system shipping computer system], and

[fig.17, element 54, 56, 57; information accessed].

As Per Claim 2:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the

information delivery system, [delivery system, fig.10, element

53] wherein the postage system, [packaging routing, tracking and

delivering system; fig.10, element 53] is further configured to

apply the network address in the postage field at a consistent

location on the objects, [assign the identification number a

unique status encoded information storage location; fig.14C] to

enable the users to automatically scan the postage field for the

network address, [fig.17, package delivery process].

As Per Claim 3:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the

information delivery system, [delivery system, fig.10, element

53] further comprising a user system configured to automatically

scan the network address from the postage field, [package

delivery process; fig. 17] and [URL code field], generate the

first message, and transfer the first message over the Internet,

[use URL to access internet server to obtain information stored

and access internet server to send confirmation].

As Per Claim 5:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the

information delivery system wherein the network address

comprises an Internet address, [encode the URL, fig.14d].

As Per Claim 6:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the

information delivery system, [delivery system, fig.10, element

53] wherein the network address comprises a domain name, [encode

the URL, fig.14d].

As Per Claim 7:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, A method of

operating an information delivery system, [delivery system,

fig.10, element 53], the method comprising:

applying postage and a network address, [URL encoded

barcode symbol printed with corresponding human readable URL

content , col.6, lines 5-10] to objects in a postage field, [URL

code field, fig 12B] on the objects wherein the postage field

comprises an area reserved on the objects for the postage and

wherein the objects are delivered to users, [read bar code label

on package using package delivery computer system, fig 18A];

receiving a first message over the Internet from one of the

users wherein the first message is addressed to the network

address; [internet system that is connected to provider for

programmed bar-code surfuring information, col.2, lines 61-65]

processing the first message to retrieve information; and

transferring the information in a second message over the

Internet to the one of the users, [URL access the internet

server and update the location within the system, fig.16C].

As Per Claim 8:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, further

comprising applying the network address to the objects at a

consistent location, [assign the identification number a unique

status encoded information], in the postage field, [URL code

field, fig.12A] to enable the users to automatically scan the

postage field for the network address, [URL code, fig.8].

As Per Claim 9:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, further

comprising automatically scanning the network address from the

postage field,[shipping computer system, fig.10, element 52],

generating the first message, and transferring the first message

over the Internet, [information storage location on a web page

of the internet].

As Per Claim 10:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, further

comprising receiving weight information, [information structure

form, fig 13A] for the objects and applying the postage based on

the weight information, [apply label to the package, fig.14e]

and [read barcode label, fig 16].

As Per Claim 11:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the network

address comprises an Internet address, [encode the URL, fig

14D].

As Per Claim 12:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the network

address comprises a domain name, [the URL for www information

resource, see fig 7B].

As Per Claim 13:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, further

comprising generating a postmark that includes the network

address, [assign package identification number, fig 14C].

As Per Claim 14:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, further

comprising paying a delivery service to cancel the postage using

the postmark that includes the network address, [information

structure, fig 13B] and [package routing subsystem, fig 53].

As Per Claim 15:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, a software

product, [web link computer system having browser program having

URL menu, col.4, lines 14-20] for a processing system that is

configured to operate with a postage system, the software

product comprising, [connects client system to the server,

col.4, lines 8-12]:

application software configured when executed by the

processing system to direct the processing system to generate an

instruction to apply postage and a network address to objects,

[assign the identification number a unique status encoded

information storage location; fig.14C] in a postage field on the

objects wherein the postage field comprises an area reserved on

the objects for the postage, [URL code filed, fig 12B] and

wherein the objects are delivered to users, transfer the

instruction to the postage system, [program having URL menu,

col.4, lines 14-20] receive a first message over the Internet

from one of the users wherein the first message is addressed to

the network address, process the first message to retrieve

information, and transfer the information in a second message

over the Internet to the one of the users, [information

electronically transmitted to sites over the internet, col.4,

lines 34-40]; and a

storage media configured to store the application software,

[URL access the internet server and update location information

within the system, fig 16C].

As Per Claim 16:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the

application software, [internet browser program, col.4, lines

14-20] is further configured to direct the processing system to

generate the instruction to apply the network address, [apply

the label to the package, fig 14E] at a consistent location in

the postage field to enable the users to automatically scan the

postage field, [URL field, fig 12A] for the network address,

[assign the identification number a unique status encoded

information storage location, fig 14C].

As Per Claim 18:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the software

product wherein the network address comprises an Internet

address, [encoded URL, fig 14D].

As Per Claim 19:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the network

address comprises a domain name, [encoded URL, fig 14D].

As Per Claim 20:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein the

application software is further configured to direct the

processing system to change the network address applied to the

objects, [use the URL to access the internet server and update

the location information within the system, fig 16C].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which

forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in

this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is
not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
section 102 of this title, if the differences between the
subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
such that the subject matter as a whole would have been
obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject
matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by
the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Carl Knowles et al.(US Patent No.

5,869,819) hereinafter referenced as Knowles in view of

David Block US Patent Number (6,010,156) herein after

referenced as Block.

As Per Claim 4:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the

information delivery system, [delivery system, fig.10, element

53] wherein the postage system, [packaging routing, tracking and

delivering system; fig.10, element 53] comprises a postage

printing device, [fig.1, printer, element 35]. But Knowles does

not explicitly disclose:

The claim stating: a configured to receive weight

information for the objects and apply the postage based on the

weight information.

However Blocks teaches a "configured to receive weight

information for the objects and apply the postage based on the

weight information" in column 5, lines 43-45 that the computer
will determine the postage indicia requirements based on the
weight, class and address information. Also see Figure 4 and all
the elements that pertain to weighing an item.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary
skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify
Knowles' method and system in conjunction with Blocks'
system and method with motivation to emulate an invention that
deals with a delivery system wherein the postage is based upon
the weight of the item, which additionally verifies the products
data and its origin for a more efficient. (see Block column 5,
lines 43-45).

As Per Claim 17:

Knowles discloses a method and system wherein, the
application software, [internet browser program, col.4, lines
14-20] But Knowles does not explicitly disclose a method that:

The claim stating: further configured to direct the
processing system to receive weight information, for the
objects, generate a postage instruction based on the weight
information.

However Blocks teaches a processing system to receive
weight information, for the objects, generate a postage

instruction based on the weight information in column 5, lines

43-45 that that the computer will determine the postage indicia

requirements based on the weight, class and address information.

Also see Figure 4 and all the elements that pertain to weighing

an item.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify

Knowles' method and system in conjunction with Blocks'

system and method with motivation to emulate an invention that

deals with a delivery system wherein the postage is based upon

the weight of the item, which additionally verifies the products

data and its origin for a more efficient. (see Block column 5,

lines 43-45).

Response to Arguments

- Applicant's arguments have been reviewed and considered.

  The Examiner introduced new relevant prior art that

  demonstrates postage being applied based on weight

  information.

Conclusion

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon**

Bass can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm**

Monday through Friday. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-6905**.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at **(571) 272-6708**.
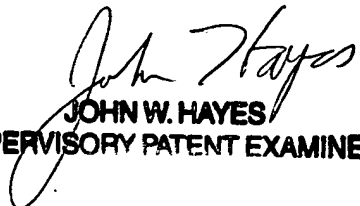
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-271-9197 (toll free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

C/O Technology Center 3600

Washington, D.C. 20231

JOHN W. HAYES

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER